

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A circuit comprising:
 - a capacitor formed with a dielectric including the dielectric encasing elements of the circuit; and
 - a detector to detect changes in the capacitance of the capacitor; and
 - approximately parallel conductors located proximate to circuit elements to protect from tampering.
2. (Cancelled).
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3. (Original) The circuit of claim 1 in which the detector further comprises:
 - a comparator to compare a reference voltage with a voltage at a node of the capacitor.
4. (Original) The circuit of claim 1 in which the detector further comprises:
 - a disable output terminal to provide a signal to disable an operation of the circuit.

5. (Currently Amended) A circuit comprising:
 - a detector comprising a capacitor formed from conductive elements arranged such that removal of dielectric material from the vicinity of the conductive elements results in assertion of a signal disabling one or more operations of the circuit, the conductive elements arranged approximately parallel and proximate to elements of the circuit to protect from tampering.
6. (Original) The circuit of claim 5, the detector adapted to assert the signal as a result of a change in a capacitance of the capacitor.
7. (Cancelled).
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8. (Original) The circuit of claim 5, the detector further comprising:
 - a comparator to compare a reference voltage with a voltage at one of the conductive elements.
9. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:
 - disabling one or more operations of a circuit upon detecting a change in a capacitance resulting from removal of dielectric material from the vicinity of conductive elements of the circuit; and

the change in capacitance resulting from removal of dielectric material from the vicinity of approximately parallel conductors located proximate to circuit elements to protect from tampering.

10. (Cancelled).

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11-9 further comprising:
forming a capacitor using approximately parallel conductors located proximate to circuit elements to protect from tampering; and
comparing a reference voltage with a voltage at a node of the capacitor.

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12. (Currently Amended) A computer system comprising:
a processor coupled to a memory by way of a bus; and
the processor comprising a detector, the detector comprising a capacitor formed from conductive elements arranged such that removal of dielectric material from the vicinity of the conductive elements results in assertion of a signal disabling one or more operations of the circuit, the conductive elements arranged approximately parallel and proximate to elements of the processor to protect from tampering.

13. (Original) The system of claim 12, the detector adapted to assert the signal as a result of a change in a capacitance of the capacitor.

14. (Cancelled).

15. (Original) The processor of claim 12, the detector further comprising:
a comparator to compare a reference voltage with a voltage at one of the
conductive elements.
